

THE ROAR OF CANNON

Their Thunder Will First Be Heard in the East.

HOSTILE SQUADRON.

The Asiatic Fleet Steaming Toward Manila.

SPANISH WARSHIPS AWAIT IT.

There the First Battle Will Be Joined.

SPAIN'S FLEET AND OURS.

Commodore Dewey's Squadron Far Superior—Manila Must Be Taken as a Base of Supplies—Vague Rumors That a Formidable Fleet Has Sailed From Spain to Bombard Northern Port.

Last night's dispatches indicate almost conclusively that the scene of the first naval battle between the United States and Spain will occur in the Pacific Ocean, just off Manila, the capital of Spain's possessions, the Philippine Islands.

The Asiatic squadron, under command of Commodore Dewey, which has been lying at Hong Kong, was notified of the declaration of neutrality by China, which forced it to leave that port.

Acting under instructions from the Secretary of the Navy, the squadron, at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon pointed its bows toward Manila under full head of steam. The fleet consists of the flagship Olympia, 5,870 tons, the fastest of the protected cruisers, next to the Columbia and Minneapolis, and far more heavily armed than those vessels; the Baltimore, 4,413 tons; the Raleigh, 3,213 tons; the Boston, 3,000 tons; the Concord, 1,710 tons; the Petrel, 892 tons. That means an aggregate of ten 8-inch guns, twenty-three 6-inch, twenty-five 5-inch, thirty 6-pounders, eight 3-inchers, fifteen 1-pounders, twelve Hotchkiss revolving cannon and fourteen Gatlings. In addition to these is the armed revenue cutter McCall, with two vessels bought for carrying coal and other stores.

AWAITING BATTLE. A run of sixty hours will bring these floating fortresses within range of the Spanish fleet at Manila, which it is reported is drawn up in line of battle, awaiting the appearance of the Americans.

The Spanish fleet consists of the wooden cruiser Castilla, 3,312 tons; the gunboats Velasco, 1,132 tons; Don Antonio Ulloa and Don Juan de Austria, each 1,139 tons; Isla de Cuba and Isla de Luzon, each 1,060 tons; while several smaller vessels are spoken of as here, including the General Leso and Elcano, 525 tons each; the Marques del Duero, 500 tons, and the Paragua. A more important vessel than any of these, the Reina Christina, 5,520 tons, is now also ascribed to Manila waters. More or fewer, and with all transports and supply ships thrown in, Commodore Dewey's fleet clearly out-clusters Spain's.

MUST TAKE MANILA. It is stated that Commodore Dewey has been ordered to take Manila as a base of supplies, the neutrality proclamation having shut him out of other ports. According to a letter from Madrid received at Bayonne, France, on Tuesday, a Spanish squadron consisting of four ironclads and three torpedo boat destroyers, sailed for the United States yesterday. It was rumored that the squadron was to steam direct across the Atlantic and bombard northern ports of the United States. The port from which the squadron sailed was not mentioned. It was added that a second squadron, consisting of four ironclads and two cruisers, was being formed at Cadiz. Its destination was unknown.

DIRECT FROM MANILA.

The Primary Object is to Capture the Spanish Fleet. LONDON, April 28.—The Hong Kong correspondent of the Times says: The American fleet, headed by the flagship Olympia, sailed at 2 o'clock this afternoon (Wednesday) direct for Manila. The British cruiser Immortalite will follow the American squadron. United States Consul-General Williams, after spending the evening ashore with

United States Consul Williams, accompanied the American squadron. Thirty insurgent leaders were wanted to accompany it, but Chief Aguinaldo goes as its representative. He will take charge of the insurgent forces at Manila. Admiral Dewey has issued strict orders that no barbarous or inhuman acts are to be perpetrated by the insurgents.

INSTANT CAPITULATION. He is determined to prevent its prey upon American vessels. On reaching Manila he will demand its capitulation within half an hour of his arrival. His men are in the best spirits and excellent health. There have been nine desertions, including six Filipinos, one Italian, and one German during the fleet's stay at Hong Kong.

Every preparation has been made. The ships are cleaned and painted for battle, and the general opinion is that the fight is these waters will result in an easy victory for America. Her ships carry 122 guns as against 35 or thereabouts in the Spanish fleet. "The co-operation of the American fleet with the rebels has been kept a strict secret. The latter await the arrival of the fleet when Manila must soon succumb. Its defenses are in a wretched state. The Americans in the Philippines are anxious to see British rule established here, and the proposal has been favorably received here. The Manila press, on the contrary, says there is great enthusiasm among the population for Spain, and that an obstinate resistance will be offered to the Americans, but the papers qualify their bold allegation by referring to the "inflammatory character of the natives, which prevents any excited expression of opinion."

"These journals say, too, that the treason of a few hundreds or a few thousands of the rebels does not affect the virtue of the race, and they laughingly add that the Philippines will prove worthy of Spain."

ALL MUST ENROLL. "The Governor of the Philippines has issued several proclamations. One required all able-bodied Spaniards to enroll themselves for military service, and accords permission to foreigners to join. Exemption is granted to all American citizens. One extraordinary proclamation has excited great distrust here. It asserts that 'the American people are composed of all social experiences, who have exhausted our patience and provoked war with their perfidious machinations, their acts of treachery and their outrages against the law of nations and international conventions.'

A BITTER TIRADE. The proclamation proceeds to say: 'A squadron, manned by foreigners, possessing neither instruction nor discipline, comes to this archipelago with the rash intention of robbing us of all that means life, honor and liberty. The aggressors shall not profane the tombs of our fathers. They shall not cover you with dishonor or appropriate the property your industry has accumulated as a provision for your old age. They shall not perpetrate any of the crimes inspired by their wickedness and viciousness, because your valor and patriotism will suffice to punish this miserable people, which, claiming to be civilized and cultivated, have exterminated the unhappy natives of North America, instead of bringing to them the light of civilization and of progress.'

SITUATION IN CUBA.

The Spanish Commission of Peace Not Yet Heard From.

HAVANA, April 23.—Via Cienfuegos.—Nobody here is able to make a definite statement as to the whereabouts of the Spanish fleet. All kinds of contradictory news reaches Havana from Spain and the United States on the subject, causing considerable confusion. The Spanish troops throughout the island have been concentrated at different points along the coast, so as to be ready to meet any attempt to land troops from the United States.

Thousands of men are reported to be enlisting in the different battalions throughout Cuba, and as very many of the men have served in the Spanish army they are expected to prove very valuable to the defense of the island. The commission of the colonial government, which went to confer with the insurgent government, has not returned, and even the government political circles it is believed that the negotiations for peace have proved a failure.

Jose Del Val, the proprietor of the magnificent plantation at Santa Cruz, Province of Santa Clara, who, with various others joined the insurgents, has been appointed a colonel in the insurgent army. The excitement caused by the recent developments in the political situation has been general throughout the island. The people may not be doing much, but they are thinking a great deal and are

A HURRICANE ON THE COAST.

Great Damage to Shipping Around Norfolk and Newport News.

NORFOLK, VA., April 27.—A heavy storm is central near Cape Henry at midnight. The wind is sixty miles an hour. In the city upwards of fifty miles an hour. The tide is very high, and all lower sections of the city are flooded. The streets are turned into canals, signs wrecked, chimneys blown down and awnings demolished in large numbers. Coming to Weather Bureau advance notice, damage comparatively light. A schooner was blown aground off Lambert's Point this morning, but floated safely at high tide. The Day Line and Old Dominion boats did not make their trips.

FLYING SQUADRON UNHURT.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., April 27.—A heavy rain and wind-storm has raged here all day, and it had not abated up to midnight. The gale attained a velocity of about fifty miles an hour, causing a suspension of shipping. During the day a number of vessels put into Hampton Roads from the sea for shelter, but no damage or wrecks were reported by the captains, though they stated that a violent hurricane prevailed along the coast.

The vessels of the Flying Squadron, anchored off Old Point, suffered no damage. The flagship Brooklyn dragged her anchor during the storm in the morning, and she, together with the Massachusetts, moved in closer to the shore to escape the fury of the mountainous waves. The small boats patrolled the entrance to the bay to prevent any ships from entering after sunset.

RALEIGH WIND-SWIFT.

RALEIGH, N. C., April 27.—A severe storm visited this city and vicinity to-night, the wind blew quite a gale but no casualties resulted. It was accompanied by a deluge of rain, which continued all night and part of the day. Late in the night there were slight hail and snow. Severe cold to-night.

ASIATIC SQUADRON NOW EN ROUTE TO MANILA.



(A map showing the position of the squadron, when lying at Hong Kong, and the route which it is following to the Philippine Islands.)

HAVANA FEELS HUNGER'S PANGS

Already "the Peaceful" Blockade is Effective.

THE NEED FOR FOOD

Ere Long it Will Begin to Become Imperative.

WHEN WILL HAVANA BE TAKEN?

That is the Question of All-Absorbing Interest Aboard the Blockading Fleet—Easy to Land Troops on the Island—The Insurgents are Reported as Being Very Active.

ON BOARD THE FLAGSHIP NEW YORK, OFF HAVANA, April 27.—7 A. M.—VIA KEY WEST, 3:45 P. M.—The blockade continues without incident. No casualties have been reported to the flagship. Last night was uneventful. This morning the torpedo boat Dupont arrived from Matanzas, reporting that there had been no more firing there and that the blockade was effectively established. No prizes have been secured by the Matanzas squadron.

News has been received that La Lucha, last night asserted that two coasting steamers had sneaked into Havana harbor on Saturday, but it must be remembered that at that time the blockade was only in its initial stages. To-day, the fighting squadron is equipped with a force of small boats, which, under cover of darkness, can get close in shore, where they are likely to prevent blockade running by little craft hugging the coast. The amount of provisions carried by the two coasting steamers into Havana last Saturday must have been so small as to be practically of no effect. The incident cannot be taken as in any way a criterion of the effectiveness of the blockade or as affecting in the slightest the chances of our success.

PANGS OF HUNGER.

Havana even now feels the pinch of the blockade. When Spanish need of food becomes imperative, then if there is money enough in the city to make it worth while, there are likely to be made many attempts at blockade running, but Rear-Admiral Sampson says they will be unsuccessful. Then will come the inevitable and Havana will be forced to surrender and beg for food.

The appearance of the Spanish fleet and an attempt to raise the blockade are contingencies that must be considered. Information regarding the movement of the insurgents is meagre but it is known that as many as can are leaving Havana. The insurgent army is believed to be active, and is trusted to shut off all communication between North and South Cuba, though communication between Havana and Batos still appears to be open.

There is talk regarding a concerted movement upon Havana and its defenses. This seems hardly feasible. The scarcity of food is bound to affect insurgents and Spaniards alike. As soon as the former carry the campaign into the far north of the island they are confronted with starvation.

GUERRILLA TACTICS.

It is believed the insurgents will adhere to their guerrilla tactics and not transfer their forces in any large numbers to a territory where starvation will soon hold sway. The problem of provisioning and cutting the blockading fleet has far more serious consequences than is generally supposed.

BOMBARDMENT OF MATANZAS.

Forts at the Mouth of the Harbor Destroyed.

RAIN OF PROJECTILES.

The New York, Cincinnati and Puritan Engaged.

AN EIGHTEEN-MINUTE CONTEST.

The Forts Also Fired at the Warships, But Without Effect—A Number of Spaniards are Believed to Have Been Killed—Excellent Marksmanship Displayed by the Americans.

ON BOARD FLAGSHIP NEW YORK 2 P. M.—The New York, the Puritan and the Cincinnati bombarded the forts at the mouth of Matanzas harbor this afternoon. There were no casualties on our side, but it is believed that the hail of iron which pounded in the forts must have caused loss of life to the Spaniards, though nothing is known definitely. LASTED EIGHTEEN MINUTES. The engagement commenced at 12:57 and ceased at 1:15. The object of the attack was to prevent the completion of the earthworks at Punta Gorda.

A battery on the eastward arm of the bay opened fire on the flagship, and this was also shelled. About twelve eight-inch shells were fired from the eastern forts, but all fell short. About five or six light shells were fired from the half-completed battery. Two of these whizzed over the New York and one fell short. The ships left the bay for the open sea, the object of discovering the whereabouts of the batteries having been accomplished. In the neighborhood of three hundred shots were put on land from the three ships at a range of from four thousand to seven thousand yards.

Rear-Admiral Sampson, when asked if he was satisfied with the result, said: "Yes, I am; I expected to be." The half-completed Spanish earthworks and battery were apparently all ploughed up by the shells. EXCELLENT MARKSMANSHIP. All the ships engaged showed excellent marksmanship throughout the engagement, and when they were firing at the shortest range nearly every shell took effect.

The forts which were bombarded were on a low lying point, and were considered merely earthworks. They did not make a good target, yet when the big guns were fired at the shortest range, portions of the fort could be seen flying in the air at every shot. The flagship returned to Havana and the Puritan and Cincinnati were left on Matanzas station.

THE SOLDIERS SOON TO BE HERE

Virginia Volunteers Will Arrive Next Week.

UNCLE SAM IS TO PAY

The United States Will Foot the Bill For Mustering In.

WAR COUNCIL HELD LAST NIGHT.

The List of Companies to Be Ordered Out Was Not Completed—Colonels Baker, Gaines and Hodges Will Complain—General Nalle to Be Made the Provisional Brigadier-General.

Governor Tyler held a war council last night with Colonels Cowardin and Skelton, of his staff; Adjutant-General Nalle, Assistant Inspector-General J. Lane Stern, Lieutenant R. C. Croxton and Colonel Hodges, of the Fourth Regiment. The conference lasted until 11 o'clock.

Colonel Stern reported the result of his visit with Colonel Coughlin to the War Department at Washington. He stated that the Federal government would bear all the expense of bringing the Virginia soldiers to Richmond. This was a great relief to Governor Tyler for he had no fund at his disposal for this purpose. The contingent fund is entirely inadequate and Attorney-General Montague has given it as his opinion that no part of the appropriation for general purposes could be used to pay military expenses.

WILL COME NEXT WEEK.

The troops will certainly not come to Richmond until next week. The Governor and his advisers went over the list of companies but did not complete the work of selecting those that will be ordered out. Another council meeting will be held to-day. There are thirty-six white infantry companies in Virginia. This number is required to make up three full regiments. Some of these companies have not volunteered but there will be no difficulty in making up the three regiments. If necessary, the Howitzers and the Portsmouth Battery can be converted into infantry companies. Captain Joseph E. Willard, of Fairfax, and Captain E. L. Miller, of Lynchburg, have their commands ready to be mustered into service. Governor Tyler has granted permission to a few other gentlemen to form companies which will be called upon if needed.

HOW MUSTERED IN.

The thirty-six companies will be selected to-day and the Adjutant-General of the United States Army will then be informed that the soldiers are ready to come to Richmond. The next step will be for an officer from the quartermaster's department to come here and make provision for the encampment, including the feeding of the soldiers. This done, Governor Tyler will cause orders to issue for the troops to proceed to Richmond. Lieutenant Croxton, U. S. A., will muster them into the Federal service. Each man below the rank of a commissioned officer will be examined as to his physical condition and none will be accepted except such as are between the ages of 18 and 45 years.

GENERAL NALLE TO COMMAND.

Governor Tyler will commission Adjutant-General Nalle provisional brigadier general to take charge of the brigade. He may be appointed a brigadier by the President. Governor Tyler has recommended him highly for a commission. In the event the President makes General Nalle a brigadier, Colonel T. O. B. Cowardin, the chief of the Governor's staff and assistant adjutant-general, will discharge the duties of adjutant-general

at such time as General Nalle shall return from the front. It now appears that it is extremely doubtful that any troops but those of Virginia will be mobilized at Richmond. The present plan of the War Department is to keep the troops within the limits of their respective States until events shall justify the forming of them into divisions and corps.

THOSE TO COMMAND.

It is settled that Colonel Baker, of the Second and Colonel Gaines, of the Third, will command two of Virginia's regiments and it has been practically decided to place Colonel Hodges, of the Fourth in charge of the remaining Regiment. Colonel Jones, of the First, has not volunteered under General Orders No. 8. Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson, of the First, has offered to go to the front, and an effort will be made to provide a position for him in one of the regiments to be ordered into service. Major Cuttings, of the Blues Battalion, has volunteered and if he insists on going to the front he will be provided for.

GEN. LEE RECALLED.

He Will Return to Washington on the Noon Train.

General Fitzhugh Lee will return to Washington on the noon train to-day. He received a message from the War Department yesterday, asking him to come back to the National Capital. The general does not know how long he will stay in Washington nor what duties he will be requested to perform. It is probable that while he is in that city he will be commissioned a major-general in the United States Army. The general spent the day yesterday quietly at home. He did not go out in the evening, and by 11 o'clock had retired.

TOBACCO MEN HOPEFUL

Major Patton and Mr. Tinsler de Good Work in Washington.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 27.—Special—Major James D. Patton and Mr. Tinsler de Good, representing the Richmond Tobacco Trade, at a late hour to-night are much encouraged over the prospect of having the retroactive provision stricken from the tobacco section of the revenue bill. Senator Foraker and Senator Hanna have heard from Ohio tobacco manufacturers on the subject, and have promised to work and vote against the objectionable feature of the bill. It is expected that the measure will be passed before the adjournment of the Senate.

THE TOBACCO TAX.

Virginia and North Carolina Dealers Make Strong Protests.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 27.—The representatives of the Tobacco Association of Virginia and North Carolina, the jobbers of the city of Baltimore, and the Wholesale Grocers' Association of the State of Ohio, held a meeting here to-day to make a systematic fight in the Senate against the provision of the proposed revenue bill, imposing an increased tax of six cents upon all tobacco in the hands of all dealers, where a tax of six cents has previously been paid under existing law. Confederate Veteran Reunion. CHARLESTON, S. C., April 27.—The annual reunion of the South Carolina Division, United Confederate Veterans, opened here to-day. About 1,300 old soldiers are in attendance, and great enthusiasm is displayed by them, in spite of very inclement weather. The reunion continues to-morrow.

Captain Curtis After a Commission.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 27.—Special—Captain J. A. Curtis, of Richmond, had an interview with Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt to-day. He is applying for the position of junior lieutenant in the navy. Captain Curtis After a Commission. WASHINGTON, D. C., April 27.—Special—Captain J. A. Curtis, of Richmond, had an interview with Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt to-day. He is applying for the position of junior lieutenant in the navy.

A SUMMARY OF THE NEWS.

The Asiatic squadron sailed from Hong Kong for Manila, where the Spanish fleet awaits it in battle array.

A squadron reported crossing the Atlantic to bombard northern United States ports.

The monitor Terror captured the Spanish sloop Ambrosia Bolivar near Havana.

It is reported from Madrid that a Spanish cruiser captured the American ship Saranac and took her to Manila.

Ten thousand canvass uniforms will be purchased for the use of the troops in Cuba, as recommended by General Fitzhugh Lee.

The House of Representatives began consideration of the war revenue bill.

Governor Oates of Alabama said after a visit to the War Department that he regarded the appointment of Generals Lee and Wheeler as major generals of volunteers as certain.

The Navy Department declined to accept the Fuerst Bismarck and Columbia, deeming them unsuitable for the naval service.

The Senate confirmed the nomination of John B. Moore to be Assistant Secretary of State and Colonel Nash to be commanding general of subsistence.

A dispatch from Rio Janeiro announces that the dynamite cruiser Nietheroy, purchased by the United States, will sail northward on Saturday escorted by a Brazilian warship.

It is reported that President McKinley will appoint only six major-generals at first.

The Montserrat, laden with a valuable cargo, ran the blockade and entered Havana harbor.

THE WAR SITUATION.

No Naval Battle is Expected As Yet.

HAVANA BLOCKADE.

The Government Entirely Satisfied With Its Results.

GREAT POWERS OF EUROPE

All Declare Neutrality Except Two.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA DELAY.

They are Expected to Assume the Same Position, However—The Attitude of Portugal Causing Some Anxiety as She Owns the Cape Verde Islands—Volunteers Protest Against the Assignments Arranged for Them—The Philippines Situation

WASHINGTON, April 27.—The war situation is substantially this: The blockading squadron remains passive before Havana with no present intention of bombarding or drawing the fire of the shore batteries. The strategic board states an effective blockade of Cuba is being accomplished to the entire satisfaction of the authorities here. There is no indication that a part of the fleet will be withdrawn for the purpose of affording additional protection to North Atlantic ports.

As to the reports of the imminence of a naval battle off the Philippine Islands, the naval authorities here seriously doubt that the Spanish fleet will make a stand against the American ships. Their reason for this belief is that the Spanish fleet is very inferior in number and quality to the American force under Admiral Dewey. The Navy Department, therefore, is satisfied that the Spanish fleet will not give battle on the high seas with Admiral Dewey, but will remain in port to secure the protection of the batteries of Manila, and consequently an engagement is not expected for about two days.

BATTLE NOT IMMINENT.

There is no certainty that there will be an engagement at all in the immediate future, the main purpose of the American expedition being to secure some suitable Spanish territory in the Philippines as a base of operations in Asiatic waters. It is possible that this can be done without attacking the Spanish fleet at all by seizing a suitable port on some adjacent island without fortifications, the sympathies of whose inhabitants are with the insurgents. No word has come to the department up to the close of office hours of the arrival of the Montserrat at Cienfuegos. The officials are inclined to believe if the ship has gotten into that port she did so before the blockade of Cienfuegos began.

The fact that the Madrid officials have rather ostentatiously declared that the Spanish fleet has sailed to bombard the cities on the North American coast, is taken as an indication in the Navy Department of the utter improbability of such a movement. If this was actually the case, the Spanish officials would be the very last persons to make their purpose public.

THE CUSHING'S INJURY.

Some vexation was felt at the injury sustained by the Cushing. Luckily, the department will be able to replace her very shortly, for President Master, of the Navy Department this afternoon to announce that the torpedo boat McKee, a 20-knot boat, would be ready for trial to-morrow. She will be sent at once to Norfolk to have the finishing touches added and then join the squadron.

A growing belief that the campaign proper in Cuba will not be in full swing before next fall, when the rainy season has ended. That belief, however, has not prevented the assignments of troops among the volunteer forces and many changes may be looked for.

The State Department posted a notice to-day stating it had been officially advised of the issuance of neutrality orders by Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, and Sweden, Russia and Columbia. To these should be added Great Britain that country having issued a neutrality proclamation, although the State Department has not yet been officially notified of the fact. It is supposed also that the official notice of France's neutrality will be received in to-morrow's press dispatches, as an agreement was reached at the Council of Ministers.

Including France, four out of the six great Powers of Europe have declared their neutrality, namely Great Britain, France, Italy and Russia.

VOLUNTEERS APPEAL.

The officials of the Department were overwhelmed to-day with all sorts of protests and appeals against their action in making the assignments of troops among the volunteer forces and many changes may be looked for.

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